CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of the direction, and a supply passage opening centrally into the chamber;

means connected to the passage for supplying the coating liquid centrally to the chamber, thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the web;

a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain; and

means for transversely positioning the edge guides and thereby adjusting the curtain width.

10. (currently amended) ~~The coating apparatus defined in claim 9 wherein each edge guide further comprises~~ An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of the direction;

means for supplying the coating liquid to the chamber, thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow face and for dropping the liquid as a transversely extending and downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the web;

a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain;

means for transversely positioning the edge guides and thereby adjusting the curtain width; and

[[a]] respective lower guide elements each having an inner face aligned vertically with the face of the respective upper guide element, the lower guide elements being fixed to and transversely displaceable with the respective upper guide elements.

11. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10, further comprising

means at lower ends of the lower guide elements for aspirating the coating liquid.

12. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined in claim 10, further comprising

means for releasably securing the lower guide elements to the respective upper guide elements.

13. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined in claim 12 wherein the releasable securing means includes finger-operable screws.

14. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9 wherein the flow-face edge is curved and fits with the upper guide element.

15. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9 wherein the flow face inclines downward from the slot to the edge.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined in claim [[16]] 9, further comprising:

a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially blocking the slot and the chamber; and

means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot.

18. ~~The coating apparatus defined in claim 17, further comprising~~ An apparatus for applying a coating liquid to a web moving in a travel direction, the apparatus comprising:

a hopper defining a distribution chamber extending transversely of the direction, a flow face extending generally in and transverse to the web-travel direction, a slot extending between the chamber and the flow face and elongated transversely of the direction, and a supply passage opening generally centrally into the chamber;

means connected to the passage for supplying the coating liquid centrally to the chamber, thence through the slot to the flow face, and thence along the flow face and for dropping the

liquid as a transversely extending and downwardly flowing curtain from an edge of the flow face onto the web;

a pair of transversely spaced edge guides having upper guide elements having transversely confronting faces and fittable complementarily to the flow face, the upper guide elements lying in a use position substantially directly on the flow face to limit liquid flow to a region thereon defined between the transversely confronting faces that hence define the width of the curtain;

means for transversely positioning the edge guides and thereby adjusting the curtain width;

a pair of transversely spaced inserts each substantially blocking the slot and the chamber;

means for transversely displacing the inserts and thereby setting a transverse width of the chamber and slot; and

structure linking the inserts to the respective guides for joint transverse displacement therewith, the inserts having confronting inner faces aligned vertically with the faces of the respective upper guide elements.

19. (previously presented) The coating apparatus defined in claim 18 wherein the hopper includes end plates laterally flanking the inserts and the chambers, the structure including rods passing transversely through the end plates and having inner ends fixed to the inserts.

20. (currently amended) The coating apparatus defined in claim 9, further comprising

means for lifting the upper guide elements off the flow face during transverse displacement of the upper guide elements.